

Message Text

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USDA FAS FOR G&F, L&M AND DAIRY & POULTRY

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SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURE PLANS FOR 1978

1. ALTHOUGH RESULTS IN AGRICULTURE ARE STILL NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1977, PLANS ARE ALREADY LAID DOWN FOR 1978. ACCORDING TO THESE, THE DIRECTIVES IN AGRICULTURE CALL FOR A 4 PERCENT OVERALL INCREASE IN PRODUCTION UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT ALL PLANS FOR 1977 WILL BE MET. THE PLAN COUNTS ON SUCH PRODUCTION STRUCTURE IN ACREAGE WHICH WILL ASSURE INCREASED GRAIN AND VEGETABLE OILSEED PRODUCTION AND WHICH WILL STABILIZE THE PRODUCTION OF SUGAR BEETS. THE PROPORTION OF ALL ARABLE LAND SOWN TO GRAIN IN 1978 SHOULD INCREASE TO 56.2 PERCENT AGAINST 55.5 PERCENT IN 1976. PER HECTARE YIELD OF GRAIN IN 1978 SHOULD REACH 3.85 TONS, THAT FOR POTATOES 17.86 TONS, FOR SUGAR BEETS 38 TONS AND FOR PERENNIAL LEGUMES 6.85 TONS.

2. A BASIC TASK IN THE CROP SECTOR IS TO ASSURE A PLANNED HARVEST OF 10.6 MIL TONS OF GRAIN, AND 8.4 MIL TONS OF SUGAR BEETS. IT SHOULD ALSO ASSURE INCREASED PRODUCTION OF BULK FODDER, VEGETABLE OILSEEDS, POTATOES, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND HOPS.

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3. IN ORDER TO ASSURE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR THE POPULATION, STATE PROCUREMENT OF GRAIN IN 1978 SHOULD INCREASE 2.8 PERCENT, THAT OF RAPESEED 14.8 PERCENT, SUGAR BEETS 3.7 PERCENT, VEGETABLES 5.5 PERCENT AND FRUITS 4.3 PERCENT. PROCUREMENT OF POTATOES SHOULD REAMIN AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN 1977.

THE HIGHER PRODUCTION AND PURCHASES OF RAPESEED IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON FOREIGN VEGETABLE OILSEEDS AND ITS PRODUCTS.

4. TO ASSURE INCREASED PRODUCTION THE APPLICATION OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS ON THE AVERAGE SHOULD REACH 243 KG PER HECTARE.

5. THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR IS DESIGNED TO ASSURE THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF CONSUMPTION OF MEATS. THIS REQUIRES THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CATTLE OF AT LEAST BY 1.9 PERCENT. THE NUMBER OF HOGS SHOULD GROW BY 4.4 PERCENT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE AVERAGE MILK YIELD PER COW WILL REACH 2904 LITER, SOME 3.3 PERCENT MORE THAN IN 1977. IN THE SOCIALIZED SECTORS (STATE AND COLLECTIVE FARMS) EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED (A) TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COWS SO AS TO OFFSET THE DECLINE IN COW NUMBERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND (B) FORM A BASE FOR INCREASED CATTLE POPULATION IN THE FUTURE.

6. TO ASSURE THE GROWING MEAT CONSUMPTION OF THE POPULATION IN 1978, STATE PROCUREMENT COUNTS FOR AN INCREASE OF 4.9 PERCENT IN SLAUGHTER ANIMALS, AND INCREASE OF 4.7 PERCENT IN MILK AND 3.5 PERCENT UNCLASSIFIED

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IN EGGS.

7. IN ORDER TO COVER AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE DEMAND FOR FEED FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DEMANDS ON CENTRAL FUNDS (STATE HELD STOCKS AND IMPORTS) IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES STILL IN 1977 TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO ECONOMIZE IN ITS USE. IT CONCERNS MAINLY GRAIN BUT ALSO BULK FODDER, INCLUDING HAY.

8. COMMENTS: IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE 1978 PLANS RELATE TO PLANS ESTABLISHED FOR 1977 A YEAR AGO. THEORETICALLY THE 1978 GOALS SHOULD BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS MADE DURING 1977. IF IN SOME AREAS PRODUCTION GOALS WERE NOT MET IN 1977, THE 1978 GROWTH TARGET SHOULD BE HIGHER PERCENTAGE-WISE AS ORIGINALLY LAID DOWN. THIS IS SO BECAUSE THE PLAN MUST ACCOUNT NOT ONLY FOR THE GROWTH SET FOR A GIVEN YEAR BUT MUST ALSO COVER THE DEFICIT OF PAST YEAR TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THE 5 YEAR PLANNING TARGET.

9. JUDGING FROM WHAT IS KNOWN AT THIS TIME ABOUT PRODUCTION RESULTS IN 1977, THE 1978 PLAN DOES NOT SEEM TO BE OVER AMBITIOUS. HOWEVER NATURE AND AVAILABLE FEEDING STUFF WILL HAVE TO COOPERATE TO ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO HARVEST A 10.6 MIL TON GRAIN CROP AND SUSTAIN A 4 TO 5 PERCENT GROWTH IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN 1978.

10. SHOULD THESE PRODCUTION GOALS BE REALIZED IN 1978, CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD STILL NEED AROUND 1.2 MIL TONS OF GRAIN FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES TO COVER THE GROWING APPETITE OF ITS LIVESTOCK SECTOR FOR GRAIN. FURTHERMORE THE NEARLY 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN RAPESEED PROCUREMENT (PRODUCTION)
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CONTEMPLATED FOR 1978 WILL HAVE ONLY A MINOR EFFECT ON IMPORT NEEDS OF SOYBEAN MEAL.
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